

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: CRIMINAL JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY

DATE: JULY 23, 2018

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS: LEGGETT
GERAGHTY
SIMPSON
WILD
MAGOWAN
DIAMOND
BRAYMER
DRISCOLL
VACANT

OTHERS PRESENT:

ROBERT IUSI, PROBATION DIRECTOR
BUD YORK, WARREN COUNTY SHERIFF
SHAWN LAMOUREE, UNDERSHERIFF
MARCY FLORES, PUBLIC DEFENDER
RONALD F. CONOVER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
AMY LAVINE, ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS BEATY
MCDEVITT
TRAVIS WHITEHEAD, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY RESIDENT
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
MOLLY GANOTES-GLEASON, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS: SOKOL
HOGAN

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the July 23, 2018 meeting of the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link:
<http://www.warrencountyny.gov/gov/comm/Archive/2018/criminal/>

Mr. Leggett called the meeting of the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee to order at 10:23 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Driscoll and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Mr. Magowan informed he would be abstaining from voting on matters pertaining to the Probation Department due to his wife being employed there. Mr. Leggett said he could abstain from voting as he saw necessary.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Robert Iusi, *Probation Director*, who distributed copies of the Probation agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing his agenda review, Mr. Iusi presented the following requests:

- A) To fill the vacant position of Probation Officer Trainee #1, *Grade 16, Base Salary \$42,290*, due to resignation.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Wild and carried unanimously to approve the request and refer same to the Personnel & Higher Education Committee for reporting purposes. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position form is on file with the minutes.*

- B) To fill the vacant position of Probation Officer Trainee TBD, *Grade 16, Base Salary \$42,290*, due to promotion.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty seconded by Mr. Wild and carried unanimously to approve the request and refer

same to the Personnel & Higher Education Committee for reporting purposes. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position form is on file with the minutes.*

C) To fill the vacant position of Senior Probation Officer #3, *Grade 20, Base Salary \$48,301*, due to retirement.

Ms. Braymer inquired if monies were available within the existing budget to fund the position changes and Mr. Iusi responded affirmatively. Mr. Leggett inquired if he was going to hire from within for these positions and Mr. Iusi replied that he intended to do so.

Motion was made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Wild and carried unanimously to approve the request and refer same to the Personnel & Higher Education Committee for reporting purposes. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Iusi spoke regarding the Raise the Age initiative, informing a comprehensive plan and financial documents had been sent to the counties by the State. He indicated the State was requesting projections of costs for services, probation, personnel, transportation and programs, as well as for the needs of the Department of Social Services, Sheriff's Office, County Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office and any other divisions that would be affected by the program. He mentioned this was complicated process and they had to justify everything they were looking for, even though the State already knew what they would provide based on numbers. He apprised to get the numbers you had to visit multiple websites for the information that was projected by DCJS (*Division of Criminal Justice Services*) who assigned values based on what they thought a case was worth. He advised the State indicated the process was going to be effortless and they would reimburse all the costs, but in reality this was not the case. He mentioned he would speak to other departments heads to determine what their needs would be to come into compliance with the program. He added the State fiscal year extended from April 1 through March 31, and the State would be projecting what they thought the costs to the County would be in October. He spoke of the time period it would take to receive reimbursement and noted he was concerned about programs for the children, Youth Court and electronic monitoring as an alternative to detention. He reported there were other programs they were working on that would require contracting with outside agencies

Mr. Wild spoke of housing and inquired if the County should do something themselves or contract with another County as there may be a potential to raise revenue. Mr. Iusi replied there was a potential to gain revenue; however, he said, he was referring to secured detention homes in the State. He mentioned there was going to be a shortage of detention beds when Raise the Age initiative went into effect in October. He indicated they used the Capital District Secure Detention Center in Albany, New York, when they had need. In terms of a location in the County, he remarked he had looked at the old jail, but the cost to rehabilitate that location would be \$8 to 10 million. He questioned if the County was interested in reaching out to surrounding counties to build a regional detention facility and he mentioned they did not expect to have many people that required detention. He suggested he would track his figures for a year and determine if they were in need of a detention home. Mr. Wild inquired what the plan was next year when there was a shortage of detention beds and Mr. Iusi replied they would access facilities they currently had and would use alternatives to sentencing such as electronic monitoring, reporting to supervision and reporting to the Probation Department. He mentioned the counties were looking for the State to potentially open their facilities so the counties could house children there short term. Mr. Wild voiced his interest in a contingency plan moving forward. Mr. Iusi indicated he did not have any knowledge regarding the County reaching out to surrounding counties. Mr. Leggett asked if the Probation Department was responsible for the Raise the Age initiative and Mr. Iusi replied it was the responsibility of the County and not entirely the Probation Department's; he clarified his department was only responsible for diversion work. He explained they diverted cases so they would not have to attend Family Court and he noted cases affected the Public Defender, Assigned Council, County Attorney and the

District Attorney. Mr. Wild suggested one individual should be identified to take the lead on Raise the Age implementation so there was less of a chance something would be missed than if the work was spread out. Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, advised that Mr. Iusi was doing a great job and the Probation Department was the agency that was compiling the plan. He added Mr. Iusi was working with him and other departments in the County and DSS employees were attending training and would have an idea of what they wanted to do once training was complete. Mr. Iusi commented the issue was detention, which was a costly expense, and the fact that an agency would have to advance funds to cover the associated expenses in order to obtain reimbursement. He suggested looking into the numbers before any action was taken. Mr. Moore advised that Mr. Iusi was more familiar with the Raise the Age initiative than any other Probation Director in the State. Mr. Leggett thanked Mr. Iusi for keeping them apprised of all the unknowns.

There being no further Probation business to discuss, privilege of the floor was extended to Shawn Lamouree, *Undersheriff*, who distributed copies of the Sheriff agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing his agenda review, Undersheriff Lamouree presented the following requests:

- A) To amend the County Budget in the amount of \$839.90 to reflect the receipt of insurance recovery funds.

Motion was made by Mr. Wild, seconded by Mr. Simpson and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the County Budget as outlined above and forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- B) For a new contract with Chics Marina to provide emergency and routine maintenance for the Sheriff's Office patrol boats.

Motion was made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Geraghty and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 17th Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Braymer inquired about the law enforcement activity on Lake George and Bud York, *Warren County Sheriff*, replied there were many vacant Lake George campsites and there was limited boat activity, but advised that between the Sheriff's Office, the State Police and the Lake George Park Commission they had made four drug/alcohol arrests. Ms. Braymer asked if the District Attorney's Office had difficulty with the older language in the BWI (*Boating While Intoxicated*) law and Sheriff York replied he was unsure. Mr. Magowan thanked the Sheriff's Office for the work they did to keep Lake George safe.

- C) To amend the contract with Tyler Technologies, authorized by Resolution No. 400 of 2017, to remove two CivilMobile licences and add one CivilServe license for the Civil Division at an additional license fee of \$4,720 plus an annual M&S Fee of \$991.

Mr. Wild asked who made the decision regarding the number of laptop and mobile licences and Undersheriff Lamouree replied the vendor along with feedback from the Civil staff.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty seconded by Mr. Magowan and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 17th Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- D) For a new contract with First Light to provide ethernet 100mb services to the Route 149 radio simulcast site at a cost of \$990 per month for a term to commence upon execution by both parties and terminate 60 months from the commencement of service.

Motion was made by Mr. Simpson seconded by Mr. Wild and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 17th Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- E) For a new contract with Hanks Quality Flooring to replace the carpet at three entrances and replace broken floor tiles in the entrances.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty seconded by Mr. Simpson and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 17th Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Following, Undersheriff Lamouree reported there were two Corrections Officer vacancies due to resignation and seven positions had been filled since the last Committee meeting.

Concluding his agenda review, Undersheriff Lamouree spoke regarding the I Am Responding software, advising he had no interest in renewing the contract at the end of August due to the lack of participation. He described the software as a means to provide assets quicker where they were needed. He indicated the problem was that they could not get agencies to use the software which meant not enough information was provided to allow for dispatch. He advised some agencies were paying for the software and he recommended allowing those agencies using the program to continue to do so at their cost. He remarked this program was of no benefit to the Sheriff's Office or the County. Ms. Braymer voiced her concern with the lack of participation and she questioned whether the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies would be able to share services. Mr. Leggett suggested turning the contract over to the Office of Emergency Services because they had a better relationship with the EMS agencies and fire departments. A brief conversation ensued, following which it was determined discussions would be held with Office of Emergency Services staff to determine whether the contract should be continued and the matter would be discussed again at the next Committee meeting.

Sheriff York inquired what the Committee intended to do regarding animal cruelty investigation services in light of the fact that the Warren County SPCA (*Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals*) contract had expired. Mr. Leggett indicated he met with the President of the Warren County SPCA and discussed their position to see what services they were willing to provide. Mr. Leggett asked how the Sheriff's Office was handling the gap in service because of the expired SPCA contract and Sheriff York replied they were responding to calls as they had always done. Sheriff York explained that Jim Fitzgerald, *former President of the SPCA*, could be hired by individual Towns for animal control services and Mr. Geraghty advised the Town of Warrensburg would be hiring Mr. Fitzgerald as a part-time employee to address their needs. Sheriff York questioned if the County was going to release another RFP (*Request for Proposal*) for animal cruelty investigation services and Mr. Leggett responded he would speak to the Purchasing Agent to see about releasing a revised RFP. Mr. Diamond suggested meeting with the SPCA of Upstate New York to discuss the proposal they had submitted in response to the last RFP before revising and re-releasing it. Mr. Moore stated his concern with the proposal from the SPCA of Upstate New York which he understood was determined to be unresponsive to the RFP because the bid submitted offered services different from those requested by the County; specifically, he indicated the bid had not provided for animal abuse investigations. A discussion ensued, following which it was consensus of the Committee to speak with the Purchasing Agent to determine if they could invite the SPCA of Upstate New York to a future meeting to discuss their bid, and if not, whether the RFP could be revised and released once again.

Mr. Moore recalled discussion at the last Committee meeting regarding the high population at the Warren County Jail and he asked if an explanation was available with regard to why the jail population here was increasing while it was decreasing in other areas. Sheriff York replied he did not have a complete answer at this time, but would get back to Mr. Moore on this.

Mr. Wild exited the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

There being no further Sheriff business to discuss, privilege of the floor was extended to Mr. Moore, who spoke on behalf of Marcy Flores, *Public Defender* who had distributed copies of the Public Defender agenda to the Committee members before she had left for another meeting; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Moore reviewed the single agenda item which pertained to the filling of the 5th Assistant Public Defender position which had been approved by Mr. Leggett on an emergency basis. He noted the new employee has commenced working for the Public Defender's Office on July 9th.

As there was no further business to come before the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee, on motion made by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Mr. Geraghty, Mr. Leggett adjourned the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Ganotes-Gleason, Legislative Office Specialist

